

Fairfax County Small Business Commission
Small Business, Legislative and Policy News
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Small Business Cyber Security Improvements Act of 2016 to improve cyber security for small businesses.

On June 06, 2016, Senator David Vitter introduced the “Small Business Cyber Security Improvements Act of 2016,” which aims to help small businesses protect themselves from cyber-attacks. The bill has been referred to the Senate committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

In 2014 alone, approximately fifty percent of small businesses experienced a cyber security breach. Under the Act, business analysts can refer small business concerns to available experts. The experts will then provide assistance in furtherance of the Small Business Development Center Cyber Strategy, which has been developed under the 2016 Act.

The Department of Homeland Security and any other Federal agency may provide cyber security assistance through the dissemination of information and their vital resources. This will help small businesses develop or enhance cyber security infrastructure, threat awareness and cyber training programs. The training will also enhance employee awareness of the best practices in the areas of cyber security and threat awareness.

For more info., Please visit:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/3024/text>

Governor McAuliffe Issues Executive Order Advancing Apprenticeships

On October 6, 2015, Governor Terry McAuliffe signed Executive Order 49 with the goal of advancing the use of apprenticeships in Virginia. The Executive Order became effective on January 1, 2016, and has established the infrastructure and set aside nearly half a million dollars in funds to achieve its goals.

Apprenticeships have long been popular in Europe, particularly in Germany, where companies will use apprenticeship programs to train future employees for jobs requiring extensive technical expertise. Recently, they have also gained in popularity within the United States, as college degrees grow more expensive, and students wish to find a way to ensure employment after graduation.

For small businesses, the executive order represents an opportunity to tailor the training and education of potential employees to their needs, particularly for jobs requiring extensive technical or specialist skills. The governor's order provides financial incentives to small businesses who do establish apprentice training programs in the form of state and federal training funds.

For more information see:
www.doli.virginia.gov/apprenticeship/pdfs/2015%20Governor's%20Executive%20Order%20on%20Apprenticeships.pdf

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